

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 1, 2008. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 8 and 10 to 15 are pending in the application, with Claims 14 and 15 having been newly added therein. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,903,760 (McFarland). Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over McFarland in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0026531 (Onodera). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Namely, the control step has been divided into three independent steps in order to clarify the operation of the invention. The steps include a step of drawing an outer circumference of the first recording medium, a step of drawing outer and inner boundaries, defining a label area therebetween inside the drawn outer circumference, and a step of displaying the image so that a portion of the formed image corresponding to the label area and a portion of the image corresponding to an area which would overflow the label area can be discriminated. Claim 4 has been amended for consistency with the amendments to Claim 1.

Apparatus claim 7 has also been amended to more clearly define the invention. Namely, the display control unit has been amended to include a first and second drawing units, namely, a first drawing unit configured to draw an outer circumference of the first recording medium and a second drawing unit configured to draw outer and inner boundaries, defining a label area therebetween inside the outer circumference. The display control unit is configured to display the image so that a portion of the formed image corresponding to the label area and a

portion of the image corresponding to an area which would overflow the label area can be discriminated. Claim 10 has been amended for consistency with the amendments to claim 7.

New claims 14 and 15 recite that the outer and inner boundaries may vary for respective types of media, even if the outer circumference is constant.

Turning to specific claim language, Claim 1 is directed to an image processing method which is used to confirm a layout of an image which is to be formed onto a first recording medium on the basis of an application, the first recording medium being of a disk shape and set in a dedicated tray of a printer. The method comprises the steps of forming the image based on said application, drawing an outer circumference of the first recording medium, drawing outer and inner boundaries, defining a label area therebetween inside the drawn outer circumference, and displaying the image so that a portion of the formed image corresponding to the label area and a portion of the image corresponding to an area which would overflow the label area can be discriminated, wherein the label area is suitable for printing on the first recording medium.

Applicant respectfully submits that McFarland neither discloses nor suggests drawing an outer circumference of the first recording medium and drawing outer and inner boundaries, defining a label area therebetween inside the drawn outer circumference as featured in Claim 1.

However, in the Office Action, it is contended that McFarland also discloses in column 2, lines 43-54 that “the image may be directly printed on the optical storage disc and that a quick drying ink is used so that the image printed does not smudge.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with such a characterization of McFarland for the reasons discussed below.

McFarland continues in the same section to disclose "the first side 139 of optical storage media 131 includes microencapsulated ink or other colored fluid droplets that respond to the head generated by laser 135. The heat generated by laser 135 causes microencapsulated ink (or other colored fluid) droplets to burst, thereby distributing the ink or other colored fluid on first side 139, thereby printing images on first side 139." Therefore, it should be noted that, in this embodiment, images are impressed directly on one side of an optical storage disc loaded into drive bay 130, and not on a surface of an optical storage disc set in a dedicated tray of a printer. The present invention is directed to the display control of a print layout so as to prevent the dedicated tray of a printer from becoming dirty due to overflowing ink in the printer. The portion of McFarland cited in the Office Action is directed to the impressing of images directly on one side of an optical storage disc loaded into drive bay 130, and therefore does not address the problem to which the present invention provides a solution.

The Office Action further contends that "One can see in Figs. 4-6 that there are certain boundaries that would be separated the inside labels area of the disc and outside the label area. For example, item 310 is the label for the CD, whereas areas outside 310 is overflowing the area of the CD as defined by groove 320" and "Again, from above, it is clearly defined which area of the entire image would be suited for printing on a disk shaped label" (page 4 of the Office Action). Applicant again respectfully disagrees with this characterization of the disclosures of McFarland.

In the present invention, images are directly printed on the first recording medium (e.g., an optical storage disc), which is set in a dedicated tray of a printer. As clearly depicted in Fig. 13, the outer circumference (1301) and the outer and inner boundaries (1302, 1303) of the first recording medium are drawn such that the user may distinguish a label area suited for

printing (defined between the outer and inner boundaries) from an area not suited for printing (extending between the outer boundary and the outer circumference). On the other hand, McFarland discloses an embodiment in which images are printed on a label in a printer and then the label is affixed onto an optical storage disc. The images are not directly printed on the optical storage disc, and therefore there is no need to perform the display control of the present invention. It should be noted that images are printed on a label placed in a standard tray of a printer as disclosed in Figs. 4 to 6 of McFarland. The printing on such a label page is substantially identical to that on standard print sheets. As such, there will be no difficulty with respect to ink overflowing the printable area.

Finally, the Office Action further contends that "(i)t would not make sense to print the areas outside the boundaries of the disc" (See Page 4 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with such a conclusion for the reasons set out below. However, the Related Background Art of the specification of the present application states on Page 2, Line 12 through Page 3, Line 8:

In the case of actually print-outputting the print data to the CD-R media by the printing apparatus, it is necessary to set the CD-R media onto a dedicated tray or the like and, thereafter, set the tray into the printing apparatus instead of directly setting the CD-R media into the printing apparatus.

In the case of print-outputting the print data to the CD-R media, a media to which the print data is actually print-outputted is not the sheet selected by the application but the CD-R media (accurately, the dedicated tray set into the printing apparatus). However, in the conventional print system

including the displaying method of the print preview as mentioned above, although the contents which would be outputted onto the sheet selected by the application can be confirmed by the print preview before the print data is print-outputted onto the CD-R media, contents which would be outputted onto the CD-R media set onto the dedicated tray cannot be accurately confirmed. Therefore, in the case where the print data is directly print-outputted, there is a risk such that the print data is outputted so as to overflow the CD-R media and the dedicated tray is dirtied.

Therefore, if an image formed based on an application is printed on such a CD-R media set in a dedicated tray of a printer, there is a great possibility that some portions of the image are printed on the areas outside the boundaries of the disc. The present invention overcomes such a problem with prior systems.

In light of these deficiencies of McFarland and the cited prior art, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 7 and 13 are directed to an apparatus and a computer-readable medium substantially in accordance with Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7 and 13 are also in condition for allowance.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.